  Douglas R. Skopp attended public schools in Los Angeles, California. He attended Dartmouth College, where he studied European history and German, and Albert-Ludwigs Universität in Germany, graduating from Dartmouth in 1963. He received a Master's in Medieval Studies at Connecticut College (1964) and a Ph.D. in European history, focusing on modern Germany, from Brown University (1974). From 1972 until his retirement from the State University of New York at Plattsburgh in 2006 with the rank of Distinguished University Teaching Professor of History, he taught courses on aspects of the World Wars, the Holocaust, medieval and modern Europe, education in Western civilization, survey courses in European history, and research skills and methods.

    In 1989, he received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. In 1985-1986, he received a Fulbright Award to research medical ethics in Germany between 1880 and 1945; that research provided the base for this novel.

    An inaugural Fellow in SUNY Plattsburgh's Institute for Ethics in Public Life, Skopp continues to assist in his retirement in the Institute's "guided inquiry" faculty seminars on ethics, ethical practices, and the curriculum. Skopp also serves as SUNY Plattsburgh's College Historian. Having taken twenty years to write this book, he doubts that he will ever attempt another (at least his wife hopes so.)